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FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 MARCH 1986

Lebanon

Kidnapping of French TV Crew — A French Foreign Ministry official began discussions with Lebanese officials in Beirut 10 March in the wake of the kidnapping of a 4-man French television crew in the Lebanese capital 8 March, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. France has also dispatched envoys to Syria and Iran in connection with the kidnapping, AFP disclosed, noting that the Islamic Jihad earlier threatened to execute one of its other French hostages unless France secures the return from Iraq of two Iraqi dissidents recently deported from Paris to Baghdad. The television crew was kidnapped after reporting on a Hizballah demonstration in Beirut, according to Paris radio, which also noted that the crew had begun work without obtaining accreditation from the various militias. Nevertheless, a Hizballah leader cited by Beirut radio stated that Hizballah had nothing to do with the kidnapping.

Other Security Incidents — A car-bomb exploded in East Beirut 8 March, killing 4 people and wounding over 38 others, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. In another development, Jerusalem radio announced that an IDF corporal was killed and five other Israeli soldiers were wounded in a clash with a "terrorist" squad in Israel's security zone in southern Lebanon the night of 8 March.

PLO

The PLO responded to King Husayn's 19 February speech in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio 9 March following the conclusion of a series of PLO Executive Committee and Fatah Central Committee meetings in Tunis. The statement, which was also carried by Amman television, affirmed the PLO's desire to overcome "negative aspects" in its relations with Jordan and to realize a "positive course" for the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, which should be protected from "fluctuations and transient changes." Nevertheless, the statement expressed "deep regret" that Husayn "justified" the U.S. stance by blaming the PLO for the breakdown of the peace move. It said a careful reading of Husayn's speech shows that the United States was seeking to "delude" the Palestinian people into believing that an opportunity for peace existed if the PLO made fundamental concessions. Claiming that the United States is unwilling to pressure Israel to accept "even a minimum balanced solution," the statement held the United States responsible for the failure of peace efforts and stressed that U.S. credibility has always been "doubtful."

As for Palestinian representation, the PLO reaffirmed the right of the Palestinian people to choose their representatives, denouncing the idea of an "alternative leadership" in the West bank and Gaza as a "Zionist" idea. The statement promised that the PLO will continue its struggle in all forms and arenas, "foremost being armed struggle."

Iran-Iraq War

An Iranian military statement reported by IRNA announced that Iranian forces "wiped out" an Iraqi battalion in the northern Al-Faw region 8 March, killing or wounding "hundreds." Tehran radio reported that 3 more Iraqi jets were shot down in the Al-Faw area 9 March, bringing the total Iraqi planes claimed to have been shot down since the start of the offensive in the region to 70.

In contrast, an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio claimed that Iranian troops attempting to attack the Iraqi southern column in the VII Army Corps sector 8 March were "wiped out" before they could approach the Iraqi forward positions. The communique also reported that Iraqi planes meanwhile attacked Khark Island.

In the fighting northeast of Al-Sulaymaniyah, Iraq claimed that its forces captured two mountains and several vantage points in a counteroffensive launched 5-7 March, according to a military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses. For its part, Iran claimed that its forces halted Iraqi advances in the area the night of 8-9 March and that it now controls the strategic heights in the region, according to Tehran radio. The radio also reported that the television antennae of the Iraqi city of Chuwartah can be "seen by the naked eye" from the Iranian forces' positions.

In a 7 March speech reported by Tehran radio, President 'Ali Khamene'i warned France against sending a fleet to the Persian Gulf, adding that Iran will act against any "impudence" in the Gulf. In a subsequent diplomatic development, the Kuwaiti defense minister denied reports that a GCC rapid deployment force is presently in Kuwait, according to a Kuwait press statement reported by QNA 9 March. Earlier, the Egyptian prime minister told Kuwait's *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM* that Egypt will be the first state to come to the aid of "any fraternal Arab country, particularly our brothers in the Gulf," in the event of aggression against them.

Israel

IDF radio reported that following a 9 March Cabinet session, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said that Israel is opposed to the sale of U.S. weapons to Saudi Arabia "in accordance with opposing the sale of arms to any country that is in a state of war with us." The radio further reported, however, that in accordance with an agreement reached between the prime minister and the defense minister "this time, Israel will not make any special efforts to stop the arms deal."

Egypt

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's portrayal of recent events in Egypt as a popular uprising against the Camp David agreement

is "unacceptable to all Egyptians," President Husni Mubarak told the People's Assembly in an 8 March speech broadcast by Cairo radio. Pointing out that Egypt has "liberated" its occupied territories, Mubarak expressed the hope that Syria will "succeed in liberating the Golan and in withdrawing the Syrian Armed Forces from Lebanese territory." On the personal level, Mubarak thanked Al-Asad for the "kind words" about Mubarak contained in the Syrian leader's 27 February speech. As for Libya's coverage of the riots, Mubarak deplored the "sick voices" and "childish" methods of the Libyan media. He reviewed the messages of support for the Egyptian authorities received during the riots, praising among others the "positive stand" adopted by President Reagan and other U.S. officials.

Mubarak also welcomed the ability of the democratic system to surmount the crisis, noting that he "never thought for a moment to resort to any exceptional measure." On the "difficult and terrible" economic problems caused by the fall in revenues from oil, the Suez Canal, and tourism, Mubarak called on Egyptians working abroad to increase remittances to their families back home and he urged all Egyptians to spend their vacations inside the country in an attempt to overcome the difficulties.

Sudan

Transitional Military Council (TMC) Chairman General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab acknowledged the fall of Rumbek in a statement at a 9 March TMC meeting reported by SUNA, asserting that Sudanese forces evacuated the city after it was besieged by 40,000 rebels. He also said that Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) forces are threatening to occupy all of the Bahr al-Ghazal region. In a speech broadcast by the clandestine Radio SPLA earlier, SPLA leader Colonel John Garang declared the entire Bahr al-Ghazal region to be a "liberated area" following the recent rebel victories there.

Chad

GUNT forces downed a C-130 plane suspected of transporting U.S. aid to the Chadian Government 7 March, Tripoli radio reported. In Ndjamena, a Zairian source acknowledged to AFP that a C-130 of the Chadian Army was destroyed in an emergency landing at Ndjamena airport 7 March, but the source blamed the crash on an engine malfunction. The AFP report added that the crew and passengers were slightly injured in the emergency landing and that the C-130, which had been donated to Chad by the United States, is "irreparable." Meanwhile, the clandestine Bardai Chadian National Radio announced that Chadian and French Government forces suffered "very heavy" losses in a clash with GUNT forces in Abeche 8 March. The radio also charged that French troops and warplanes participated "massively and directly" in the fighting in the Oum Chalouba-Kalait area 5 March.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

South Asia

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PRC's Li Xiannian Arrives on State Visit

Welcomed by Ershad

BK080732 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Excerpt] A warm and hearty welcome was given to Chinese President Li Xiannian when he arrived in Dhaka a short while ago on a 4-day state visit to Bangladesh. Accompanied by his wife, Madam Lin Jiamei, the Chinese president is visiting Bangladesh in response to an invitation extended by President Ershad. A 21-gun salute boomed out to herald the arrival of the distinguished guests from the friendly country, China, shortly after midday. President and Begum Raushan Ershad are receiving President Li Xiannian and Madam Lin Jiamei at the airport. After the airport ceremony, the Chinese president and Madam Lin are about to leave for Banga Bhavan [president's house] in a ceremonial motorcade. President Li will lay wreath at the Jatiya Shahid Smriti Saudha [National Martyrs' Memorial] at Savar later in the afternoon. The Chinese president will attend a state banquet to be given in his honor by President Ershad tonight.

Makes Arrival Statement

BK081620 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Excerpts] President Li Xiannian of China was accorded a red carpet reception when he arrived in Dhaka on a 4-day state visit to Bangladesh.

In a statement on arrival, the Chinese president said there exists a sound friendship between Bangladesh and China. The friendly relations and cooperation have been satisfactorily progressing since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The Chinese president said he has brought with him the cordial greetings of the Chinese people for the friendly people of Bangladesh. He expressed the hope that his visit will further cement the ties of friendship and cooperation between China and Bangladesh.

Ershad, Li Give Banquet Speeches

BK081734 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1705 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] President Ershad has said the relations between Bangladesh and China are rooted in the ties of geography, history, and tradition. Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the Chinese President Li Xiannian and Madam Lin at Banga Bhavan in Dhaka today, the president said the two countries have common aspirations, commitments, and similarity of approach toward major global issues. He said the high level contacts and exchanges as well as the conclusion and implementation of a number of agreements have made significant contribution toward deepening and widening of bilateral relations as well as other cooperation in the international field.

President Ershad referred to the assistance extended by China and said his country is happy to have China not only as a time-tested friend but also as a major partner in progress.

In reply President Li Xiannian said it is a firm policy of his government to constantly strengthen and develop Sino-Bangladesh friendly relations and cooperation. Being close friend of the Bangladesh people, President Li said they had all along followed the development efforts in this country with great interest. He referred to the importance attached by the Bangladesh Government to developing agriculture and expanding industry by utilizing the local resources, thus, ensuring a sustained growth of production and enhancing the national strength of Bangladesh.

President Li said the Chinese people together with the people of Bangladesh and other countries would work for relaxing world tension, maintaining world peace and promoting prosperity of all countries.

Explaining the Chinese foreign policy, he said China would stand by the Third World and strengthen our unity and cooperation with other Third World countries.

The Chinese president also called upon the United States and the Soviet Union to hold serious negotiations for nuclear disarmament and cessation of their arms race in the outer space.

Talks With Ershad

BK090721 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] The official talks between President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and the Chinese president, Mr Xiannian, were held at Banga Bhavan in Dhaka this morning. The talks lasted 2 hours, and the two leaders were assisted by their aides. After the meeting, the foreign secretary told newsmen that the two leaders — during the talks covering bilateral, regional, and international issues of common concern — noted remarkable understanding between the two countries on various developments in bilateral relations. The two countries also have identity of views on regional and international issues of common concern.

Giving an account of the outcome of the talks, the foreign secretary said the two leaders reviewed the progress on bilateral relations since the estabishment of diplomatic relations 10 years ago. They expressed their satisfaction on the satisfactory progress of bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Interest-Free Loan Initiated

BK091305 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] China will provide Bangladesh with a fifth interest-free loan of 15 million yuan, equivalent to about 500 million taka, toward financing its economic development projects. The Chinese decision was initiated by President Li Xiannian to President Hussain Mohammad Ershad during the formal talks in Dhaka this morning. The talks lasted over 2 hours.

After the meeting the foreign secretary told newsmen that the two leaders discused bilateral, regional, and international issues of common concern and noticed remarkable understanding

between the two countries on various development and bilateral relations. The two countries also have identity of views on regional and international issues of common concern.

Giving an account of the outcome of the talks, the foreign secretary said the two leaders reviewed the progress on bilateral relations since the establishment of diplomatic relations 10 years ago. They expressed their satisfaction on the progress of bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The foreign secretary said the two leaders discussed the question of joint ventures between the two countries, including Chinese supply of credits, transfer of technology, and cooperation in technical fields.

The Chinese delegation had a further meeting with the finance adviser, M. Syeduzzaman, to continue discussions and sort out the details on economic cooperation.

Reaffirms Support

BK100155 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] President Li Xiannian of China has reaffirmed his country will help Bangladesh in her efforts to preserve sovereignty and independence. At a civic reception in North Dhaka of Jatiya Shangsad [national parliament] yesterday afternoon, he said the Chinese people have unstinted support for the people of Bangladesh. The friendship between the two countries has stood the test of time. The Chinese president lauded the efforts of Bangladesh to promote peace, harmony, and development in the region and the world. Mr Li Xiannian said he and his wife are moved by the words of friendship extended to them.

Earlier, in his address of welcome, the administrator of Dhaka Municipal Cooperation, Major General Mahamudul Hassan said the current visit of the Chinese president will further strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries. He said the people of Bangladesh and China stand solidly united in their common aspirations for peace, cooperation, and development.

A colorful shawl depicting the traditional heritage of Bangladesh was presented in honor of the visiting Chinese head of state and his wife at the Osmani Hall in the capital last night. President Ershad and Begum Ershad also attended the function.

Former Ershad Minister Quits National Party

HK101334 Hong Kong AFP in English 1313 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Dhaka, March 10 (AFP) — A former Minister under President Hussain Mohammad Ershad Monday said he had quit the pro-government National Party to protest the regime's "anti-democratic attitude."

Retired Captain Abdul Halim Choudhury, who served in Lt Gen Ershad's cabinet in 1984 and who was a top leader of the National Party, in a published statement said he had severed all links with the government.

Mr Choudhury also urged the opposition to intensify its campaign against the Ershad administration to frustrate his plans to hold parliamentary polls next month under martial law.

He criticised the government for "foul play against democracy and the people."

Lt Gen Ershad came to power in a bloodless coup in 1982 and named himself president in 1983.

Bomb Blasts, Demonstrations During 6-Hour Strike

NC081050 Paris AFP in English 1034 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Dhaka, March 8 (AFP) — At least seven people were detained by police here Saturday as bomb blasts and demonstrations accompanied a six-hour general strike which paralyzed much of the country, police and opposition sources said.

The strike, called by the principal parties opposing President Hussain Mohammad Ershad to protest plans to hold a general election next month, ended at noon [0600 GMT], just 40 minutes before the arrival here of Chinese President Li Xiannian for a four-day official visit.

Barrister Rafiqul Islam, a spokesman for a seven-party opposition alliance, described the strike as a "complete success" throughout the country. He said it went off peacefully.

However police in Dhaka said a group of unidentified people had tossed three handmade bombs at the official residence of State Information Minister Anwar Zahid before the strike ended.

Only one of the bombs exploded and no one was hurt, but at least seven people were detained by police on the spot, eyewitnesses said.

Witnesses also reported earlier a grenade explosion about 200 meters (yards) from the residence of Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed, the deputy chief martial law administrator, shortly after the official had left the building under heavy naval escort.

Other reports said several government vehicles had been stoned.

The strike closed shops and offices in Dhaka and emptied the streets of traffic. Slogan-chanting workers led by student groups also staged demonstrations in the city's Minto Road area — an exclusive residential enclave for cabinet ministers and top government officials — a student leader said.

Armed police guarded government buildings and police patrols were mounted in the streets of the capital.

However, there were no reports of clashes between strikers and the police, and eyewitnesses said the strike went off smoothly in the port city of Chittagong, the industrial township of Khulna and various other district towns.

H

Statement on Sri Lanka's 1 Mar Note Issued

BK071545 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1514 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] The spokesman made following statement on 6 March:

"The foreign secretary, Mr. Romesh Bhandari, today called the Sri Lankan high commissioner, Mr. Bernard Tilakaratna, to the External Affairs Ministry and referred to the note presented by the Sri Lanken Government on March 1, 1986.

"It was conveyed that in his note of March 1, 1986, baseless and tendentious allegations have been made and intemperate language used including the casting of personal aspersions on the external affairs minister, Mr B R Bhagat.

"The Government of India is both dismayed and regrets the content and tenor of the note. It can hardly be conductive to overcoming the ethnic crisis in Sri Lanka.

"It was reiterated by the Government of India that it has traditionally close and cordial ties with Sri Lanka and it has been exerting itself tirelessly to assist in bringing about a political solution to Sri Lanka's ethnic problem.

"In view of these accustations against India and particularly in the light of the note, it appears to the Government of India that there is an attempt to find an alibi for the failure to engage in constructive negotiations.

"It was recalled that the Government of Indian had extended its good offices to Sri Lanka from 1983 to help resolve the ethnic issue. The Governmment of India stands committed to this policy.

"Despite the continuing influx of refugees which has thrown a heavy burden on India, the Government of India has acted with restraint and attempted to maintain the traditional cordiality and cooperation in bilateral relations. The Sri Lankan Government should take note of the continuing endeavours of India to ensure that despite many obstacles in the way, all the parties concerned adhere to the path of seeking a negotiated settlement without further delay and loss of life.

"The Government of India has pointed out that the present attitudes and policies of Sri Lankan Government would only mean the prolongation of the agony and a deepening of the tragedy faced by Sri Lanka and its people."

Chief Minister of Jammu, Kashmir Resigns

HK071404 Hong Kong AFP in English 1351 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 7 (AFP) — Chief Minister Ghulam Mohammed Shah of Jammu and Kashmir State in India's northwest announced Friday that he had resigned.

The resignation followed three weeks of communal tension and intense discussions between Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Mr. Shah and Kahmir Governor Jagmohan in New Delhi about the developing crisis in the state.

Farooq Abdullah, leader of the majority faction of the National Conference Party and former chief minister, also had talks with Mr. Gandhi.

Mr. Shah told the press in Jammu, winter capital of the state, that he had resigned and an announcement regarding "what next" would be made later Friday, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Mr. Shah quit his post on the advice of the governor after Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party had withdrawn its support for him in the state legislature Friday morning, reducing his break-away National Conference Party to a minority.

Kashmir Under Governor's Rule

BK071447 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] Jammu and Kashmir has been placed under governor's rule and the G.M. Shah ministry dismissed. The governor, Mr Jagmohan, issued a proclamation to this effect in Jammu this evening. The governor has assumed himself the fucntions of the state government. The state legislative assembly shall remain in a state of suspended animation. The proclamation says that the decision has been taken by the governor after considering all aspects and having satisfied himself that a situation has arisen in which the state government cannot function in accordance with the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution.

Later, talking to newsmen, the governor assured the people of the state that their grievances will be looked into. He said the first and foremost task at this juncture is to promote peace and communal harmony. He said Dr Farooq Abdullah has informed him that the merger of National Conference-Khaleda group as claimed by Mr G.M. Shah has not been accepted.

Congress-I Official Comments

BK071601 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] The Congress-I vice president, Mr Arjun Singh, has said that his party has withdrawn support to the Shah ministry after careful consideration of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. He said during his last visit to the state he was convinced that antinational forces were raising their heads. Still his party gave enough time to Mr G.M. Shah with the hope that he would be able to control the situation. Since Mr Shah could not do so his party had to withdraw its support keeping in view wider national interests.

Mr Arjun Singh was speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today. Asked if the state assembly would be dissolved and elections held, he said polls have to be held one day or the other, but immediately they were not on the card. Mr Singh expressed the confidence that the strong steps will be taken against antinational forces.

Leaders Welcome Governor's Rule

BK080357 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Leaders of different political parties have generally welcomed the governor's rule in Jammu and Kashmir and assured full cooperation to the governor in running the administration. The deputy leader of the Congress-I legislature party, Mr Rangil Singh, has said that a brief spell of the governor's rule will help restore normalcy and communal harmony, which, he alleged, the Shah government had failed to maintain.

Welcoming the move, the leader of the National Conference — Farooq Group — and former minister, Mr Bodhraj Bali, has demanded early election for ending uncertainties in the state. The Pathers Party president, Mr Bhim Singh, and the Lok Dal general secretary, Mr Satya Pal Gupta, have hailed the governor's rule but demanded that the state assembly should be dissolved for holding early elections. The state BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] general secretary, Mr Chaman Lal Gupta, has said that the governor's rule is welcomed, though a belated step. The president of the Janata Party, Mr Dhanraj Bargotra, and former chief minister, Mr Mir Qasim, have also welcomed the governor's rule.

Meanwhile, the governor, Mr Jagmohan, reviewed the law-and-order situation in the state with senior officers in Jammu last evening. The director general of the police and the state chief secretary were present. The situation in the state is near normal but night curfew continues in Jammu, Srinagar, and Sopor as a precautionary measure.

Polls Cancelled; Curfew Reduced

BK081603 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] The biennial elections to Rajya Sabha from Jammu and Kashmir scheduled to be held on the 27th of this month have been cancelled. This was announced by the Election Commission in New Delhi today. The elections to the state legislative council have also been cancelled. The decision follows the latest developments in the state.

In Jammu city, night curfew will now be enforced from midnight tonight to 0500 in the morning instead of 2100 in the evening to 0600 in the morning. The decision was taken after a meeting between the governor, Mr Jagmohan, and prominent citizens of the city this evening.

Ministers Form Independent Group

HK100720 Hong Kong AFP in English 0659 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 10 (AFP) — Ministers from the Shah government that resigned from rule in Jammu and Kashmir State last week have decided to form an independent group, UNITED NEWS OF INDIA [UNI] said Monday.

UNI said that 14 of the 19 ministers of the administration of G. M. Shah would create the new group, which could complicate the search for a solution to the state's political troubles.

Mr. Shah's government, led by the Moslem-dominated National Conference Party, was forced to resign after Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party withdrew its support accusing Mr. Shah of economic and administrative failures.

Mr. Shah had led a splinter group of the parent National Conference Party and formed the state government in August 1984.

Federal rule was imposed on the state, which is disputed by India and Pakistan, after the resignation last Friday.

Technically no single party at present can form a new government as none enjoys abolute majority. The state can remain under federal rule for six months, with any extention to be approved by the federal Parliament.

The Federal Election Commission can order polls any time on the ground that none of the groups are able to form a stable government.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Resigns After Verdict

BK071243 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] The Maharashtra chief minister, Mr Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar, has resigned. He submitted the resignation to the governor, Mr K. Prabhakar Rao, Raj Bhavan [governor's house] in Bombaylooday.

Mr Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar's resignation comes in the wake of Bombay high court judgment over a petition on manipulation in the results of the M.D. examinations of Bombay university.

Punjab Chief Minister on Extremist Activities

BK080353 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] The Punjab assembly has passed the motion of thanks to the governor's address. Replying to the discussion on the motion, Mr Barnala [the chief minister] reiterated that the state government is committed to all-round development of the state and welfare of the people. He said that the law-and-order situation is not that bad as it is being depicted in certain quarters. He attributed the extremist activitwes to those misguided youth who have been imparted training, supplied weapons, and brainwashed to indulge in such activities by a neighboring country. Mr Barnala said while fighting such elements Punjab is fighting a battle for safeguarding the country's unity, integrity, and peace.

Prime Minister Interviewed on Politics, Defense

BK071734 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has said his sincere wish is to lay a strong foundation of basic principles to enable the political parties to play their role effectively. In an interview to the monthly *URDU DIGEST* he said he would consider himself very fortunate if he were successful in his attempts. He said he fully believes in settling political problems through the political process. Now that God has provided him with an opportunity to lead the country along the right path he said, he will make all efforts to protect the democratic principles.

The prime minister said that he would like to raise the status of political workers to an extent that they could prevent corruption in the administration effectively. District level committees comprising members of the National Assembly and provincial assemblies will be formed so as to identify corrupt elements in government institutions and recommend appropriate action against them. He said corrupt government officials will not be tolerated at any cost.

On implementing his 5-point program which includes doubling the literacy rate and ending corruption and bribery, the prime minister said positive steps have been taken already, and he fully believes that his attempts will be successful. He expressed the hope that people will fully support the government's program to make education viable.

In reply to a question on the reorganization of the Pakistan Muslim League, as president of the party Mohammad Khan Junejo said the most important task is to prepare the party's charter. After preparing a charter he and his associates will present it to the people for their support.

The prime minister said strong defense is essential to Pakistan and he is determined to take every possible step in this regard. The defense of the country should be stabilized in such a manner to make all the neighboring countries understand that despite its limited resources, Pakistan is not in any way weak in its defense. Weapons for the Armed Forces are important, but to protect the borders the morale and the determination of the country is even more important. The civil defense system can be coordinated in such a manner that the people are also involved in defending the country.

The prime minister said Pakistan is determined to implement an independent policy and to keep the national interest in view when solving important regional issues. Superpowers always try to influence the policies of other countries so as to win the support of these countries in all matters. But the present elected government which enjoys the support of the people is fully competent to adopt the correct line in its foreign policy.

In reply to a question whether there is any possibility that relations between Pakistan and the United States would be affected by the current U.S. policy toward Arab and other Islamic nations, the prime minister said Pakistan has explained to the U.S. in clear terms that it should support the view of Pakistan regarding the Islamic world.

On the Iran-Iraq war the prime minister said the continuous war between two Muslim nations is a matter of deep concern to the whole Muslim community. He said due to the recent escalation of war he has called for convening an ummah peace committee to revive the efforts to end the war between the two countries.

Answering another question on the possibility of a solution to the Afghanistan problem this year, Mohammad Khan Junejo said the recent round of indirect talks in Geneva gives that impression but the situation is unclear and there has been no progress. Furthermore, there is a hint of flexibility in the attitude of Soviet leaders which shows that due to the stiff resistence of the Afghan mujahidin the Soviet Union must review its strategy in Afghanistan.

UN Envoy on Afghanistan Visits Islamabad

Arrives 7 Mar

BK080321 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Diego C~~dovez, the UN secretary general's personal representative on the Afghanistan isfue, arrived in Islamabad last night. Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said that there has been progress toward a solution to the Afghanistan issue and we have to continue to move further ahead. He hopes that his current visit will bring about encouraging results for a political settlement of the Afghanistan issue. He said that he feels that, despite the negative attitude of some people, there has been considerable progress because the concerned parties are committed to resolving this issue, adding that he has come to assist the concerned parties.

In reply to a question on whether he will pay special attention to the modalities of talks or the fourth instrument for a comprehensive settlement of the issue, which relates to a timetable for Soviet troop withdrawal, he said that he will exchange views on all aspects. If an issue comes up, such as that of modalities for the talks, it will be important to resolve it because it might slow down the process of the dialogue.

Cordovez appreciated Pakistan's cooperation, willingness, and readiness for a political resolution of the Afghanistan issue — the only solution to the issue. Pakistani leaders — and especially President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and the foreign minister — always remain ready to find an alternative solution to this issue and other possibilities, he added. [sentence as heard]

Referring to his visit to Moscow, Cordovez said that Soviet leader Gorbachev's attitude in this regard is very clear. Progress so far on the issue of talks in New York and Moscow was reviewed. Both the United States and the Soviet Union have agreed to provide guarantees on the Afghanistan issue. Cordovez will meet Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Islamabad this morning for their first round of talks. He is expected to meet Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo this afternoon, to be followed by his meeting with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

Meets With Yaqub Khan, Junejo
BK081612 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] The first round of talks between Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, was held in Islamabad today. The second round of talks will be held tomorrow. Mr Diego Cordovez called on Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Rawalpindi today and discussed issues related to his current visit to the region which he is undertaking to facilitate further progress toward a political solution of the Afghanistan problem.

To Leave for Kabul 10 Mar
BK091526 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] Two rounds of formal talks between Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and the UN secretary general's personal representative on the Afghanistan issue Diego Cordovez were held in Islamabad today. Cordovez will leave for Kabul tomorrow to hold talks with the other party of the issue.

Commentary Urges Response
BK091339 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1715 GMT 8 Mar 86

[A. Sayed Qamar commentary]

[Text] Mr Diego Cordovez, special envoy of the secretary general of the United Nations, arrived in Islamabad late Friday night to carry forward the talks toward the solution of the Afghanistan problem. Talking to newsmen, Mr Cordovez said that there has been a lot of progress in the efforts to find a political settlement of the Afghanistan problem. He was of the view that the process of negotiations launched earlier has moved forward and that they have gone a long way in their efforts to achieve a political solution of the problem. Mr Cordovez was happy over the progress made so far. He appreciated the political will, cooperation, flexibility, and tremendous determination that two interlocutors had shown throughout the process of discussion. Mr Cordovez described his current visit as important as the (?first one) because all parties concerned have gone a long way in these efforts. While replying to a question, he was very categorical in saying that there is a willingness to achieve a settlement. He was hopeful that this problem would be solved and that he had come to assist his interlocutors in such an effort, he added.

The [word indistinct] statement of Mr Cordovez on his arrival here was no doubt very encouraging and based on optimism. [Words indistinct] that the Afghanistan people will feel very happy over what he said. It is now over 6 years that the Afghanistan issue has been lingering on and during this period several developments have taken place. The process of negotiations started by the special envoy of the UN secretary general under the auspices of the United Nations has already moved up to the sixth round at Geneva. During the (?fifth) round of talks the problem and its solution have been thoroughly discussed and certain modalities have also been decided by the two sides and [words indistinct]. Unfortunately, as the talks in the fifth round were progressing, another element was introduced by the Kabul representative in the indirect talks which gave a jolt to otherwise smooth and peaceful negotiations. This was obviously done with a purpose and later events proved that Pakistan's stand on the issue [words indistinct]. Kabul insisted that Pakistan must hold direct talks. But the Pakistani representative refused because Pakistan believed that if the first three instruments could be tackled through indirect talks, then there is no reason why the fourth instrument cannot be dealt in a similar manner. This shuttle of Mr Cordovez is undoubtedly very important. It is ever since the fifth round of talks that he remained busy trying to consolidate his efforts. In this connection, he also visited Moscow to hold talks with the Soviet leaders. Thereafter, at the congress meeting of the Soviet Communit Party the Russian leaders have also given impressions that they wanted a peaceful solution to the Afghanistan problem.

Pakistan sincerely believes that Afghanistan problem must be solved peacefully in accordance with the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, and Organization of Islamic Conference resolutions. She wished the people of that country must exercise their right of self-determination to decide their fate. Pakistan desires that the Soviet forces withdraw from Afghanistan followed by the return of the Afghan refugees to their motherland with honor and dignity. Thereafter, the Afghan people must enjoy their right to decide their fate. This has all along been the stand taken by Pakistan on this issue despite the fact that Pakistan consistently was under pressure. The pressure tactics included frequent violations of the airspace by Afghan planes, gunship helicopters, and frequent bombing of its border villages. Pakistan has shown great restraint all along because it believes that the use of force has never yielded any result anywhere in the world. But it is high time that Kabul and Moscow must realize the gravity of the situation and sincerely respond to the efforts being made by Mr Cordovez toward the solution of the crisis. The amount of optimism demonstrated by the UN special envoy last night in Islamabad will be welcomed by Pakistan for it is keen that the 3 million Afghan refugees, who have taken shelter in Pakistan, should return to their homeland and (?live in peace).

Troops on Alert After Clash With Opium Growers
NC092204 Paris AFP in English 2159 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Gandaf, Pakistan, March 9 (AFP) — Pakistani troops were on full alert in this northwest mountain town on Sunday after clashes with opium growing villagers left 13 people dead and more than 60 injured on Saturday. Residents told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here that 140 people were still missing following the opium destruction operation in the Gadoon-Amazai region. Officials said 120 people were arrested on charge of violating the ban on poppy growing and attacking security forces, who were trying to carry out an eradication order. A Pakistan military source said that 28 paramilitary troops and police were also injured in the clash. Authorities said the anti-poppy sweep on Saturday eliminated opium on more than 120 acres of land which, they said, was half the total opium cultivated area in the country. Soldiers manned special check points watching entry of people to the area where fields were devastated.

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Sermon Address

War To End With Saddam's Fall

GF071258 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Arabic Friday sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, Tehran Friday imam, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, at Tehran University on 7 March — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Peace be upon the men and women of our Muslim nation throughout the world. Peace be upon our Arab brothers and sisters everywhere. The Muslim region in general, and the Middle East in particular, are now passing through a critical period. The domineering and arrogant powers clearly feel, as a result of the current fateful events, that they are threatened by a great danger that stems from Islam and aware Muslims.

With regard to the imposed war the present situation has, thank God, dispelled all the hopes of the tyrants and refuted all the claims of the media of the world's tyrants. After dealing effective blows to the Iraqi army both in the Al-Faw region and in the Al-Sualymaniyah region in southern and northern Iraq, and through their consolidated presence in these areas, the heroes of Islam pose a serious and great threat to the survival of the present corrupt and surrogate regime of Iraq. These courageous fighters through their readiness, faith, and firmness are determined, God willing, to continue to deal their lethal blows until justice is established and the aggressor regime that controls Ireq is punished.

Such a situation has considerably increased the anxiety of those who always fear the consolidation and strength of the Islamic regime. We are not about to reassure the world oppressors about the Islamic attack that is sweeping away all the manifestations of the arrogant. It is obvious that Islam opposes the arrogant powers' way of dealing with people and the plundering of their wealth. We knew that establishing the Islamic system would threaten the unjust and illegitimate interests of the arrogant powers in the region. We once again want to affirm to the neighboring countries in the Persian Gulf that they must not be deceived by the ploys of the arrogant Western countries and they must stand firm in their Islamic positions.

The Western states that have interests in the region are very anxious and frightened of the creation of understanding between us and the Persian Gulf countries. Every hostile stand or action by the area countries against the Islamic Republic is a move to consolidate the interests of the covetous powers and to harm the people of the area; consequently such actions will harm these countries themselves.

The war that is imposed upon us was one of these moves. We, thank God, can today categorically declare that through our magnificent resistance and confrontation, we have succeeded in repulsing the aggressor Iraqi regime and have forced it to retreat in defeat.

This is one of the important incidents taking place in the area that fills the world's arrogant powers with fear and terror and makes them adopt further futile hostile stands. There are other events in the Middle East that have the same effect. Among such events we refer to the events that took place in Egypt, events that pose a great threat to the surrogate regime dominating Egypt. On the basis of our Islamic beliefs we belive that the forces of right, through their firmness and righteousness, are capable of defeating the forces of wrong in all fields of conflict. This has been demonstrated by the recent experiences throughout the world.

Now I would like to address the zealous Iraqi believers and say to them that all the circumstances have become favorable for them to deal their final blow to the regime that has persecuted them: The regime that dominates you is now experiencing great disarray and fragmentation on the battlefronts. Its hopes have collapsed — hopes for the achievement for which it harnessed vast sums of money and weapons. The zealous Iraqi people must realize their great responsibility at the present critical moment and carry out this responsibility with courage and chivalry. It is also a valuable opportunity for the Iraqi Army, which has regretfully remained for a long time an instrument of the corrupt rulers, to return to its senses, turn away from the 'Aflaqi Ba'thist leaders who have never understood the meaning of human values and Arab honor, and turn to the Iraqi people to protect the interests of these wronged people.

The war that was begun by Saddam at the instigation of foreigners must end with the punishement of Saddam. All those who believe in the need to extinguish the fire of the war must contribute toward achieving it.

I ask God to grant success to all in understanding and following the right course. O worshippers of God, I urge you to fear God and to reconcile your differences. I ask God to forgive me and you. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. When the help of God and victory come, and you see men entering God's religion in throngs, then proclaim the praise of your Lord, and seek his forgiveness, for he turns again unto men. [Koranic verse]

Warns France Against 'Impudence'

LD071254 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] The political-religious Friday prayers were held throughout the country today. Tehran's inhabitants also observed the Friday prayers under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam va al-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University and the surrounding thoroughfares.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council in his second Friday prayers sermon, referred to the state of extreme anxiety suffered by the ringleaders of world arrogance and their supporters following the crushing blows dealt by Islam's combatants at the body of the Iraqi regime. He said: The imposed war, which world arrogance used to announce would have no victor, is now turning into one with only one victor, the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, referring to the recent events in the Persian GCC and the resolutions issued by that council said: The despair felt by the Persian GCC with regard to Saddam's remaining in power is fully reflected in the council's resolutions. Certain members of this council appreciate the reality that the Saddam regime is neither defensible nor capable of staying. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin addressed the Persion GCC on the unstinting support it has given to the Iraqi regime: Since you have admitted in your private and public meetings to the Iraqi regime's aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran, why have you encouraged the aggressor, given it loans, sold oil on its behalf, and placed your shipping, ports, and roads at its disposal? If you merely recognize aggression when it is directed at an Arab country, then your claim is to be deprecated! When it comes to aggression against Arabs, have you been consistent in opposing all such aggression and, as it were, displayed a measure of zeal? No! This is not so! You saw for yourselves how Anwar al-Sadat stabbed Arabs in the back and supported Israel and the shameful Camp David accord, but you backed him; and today you are giving the same backing to his successor, Husni Mubarak. King Husayn has massacred 25,000 Palestinians. Were not those Palestinians Arabs?

Following the Arab-Israeli war when the issue of banning the export of Arab oil to the Western world was raised, which country clandestinely poured its oil toward the Western world? In your betrayal of Arabs and Palestine's aspirations, you were partners of the shah!

The United States placed an embargo on Libya, but you never said a thing and never protested to the United States when a Libyan aircraft was shot down! Then you cannot claim that you are sensitive to aggression against Arabs. What you are sensitive to is aggression against the United States and its interests and nothing else.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council once again emphasized: We have no need of Iraqi soil, Al-Faw, Ra's al-Bishah, or the Sulaymaniyah Heights. With a population of more than 40 million, our country is richly endowed with natural resources and riches. We do not covet Iraqi territory, but we will administer a salutary lesson to the aggressor. We reject the principle of putting up with aggression dictated by the superpowers. Thanks to the courage of our combatant young people and fighting nation, we have entered Iraqi soil, and as long as we have not toppled the enemy from power we will not vacate its soil!

Addressing the Persian Gulf shaykhs, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council emphasized: Our business is Saddam and the aggressive Iraqi regime. We have nothing against the Muslim Iraqi nation and the soil of that country. You should renounce your support for Saddam. Do not descend to the bottom of the pit with Saddam's moribund rope. We do not desire the extension of the war beyond Iraqi territory. It is in your hand whether or not you want to do this.

The president of the Republic emphasized: On behalf of the entire Iranian nation, I hereby proclaim that after the Iraqi regime it would not be the turn of anybody else at all, unless it were someone who wished to commit aggression against us. After the Iraqi regime, it would be the turn of peace and security in the region and reconstruction by the two states of Iran and Iraq. Some Frenchman has said: The French fleet has not come to the Persian Gulf for fun. Let them know that we will administer the recompense for impudence in the Persian Gulf. It does not become France, despite all its misfortunes, to threaten us in the Persian Gulf. This seems to be beyond the powers of political understanding and sensibilities of French politicians to understand what a nation and people they are talking about.

Referring to the admission made by media of world arrogance that Saddam has never before been caught in such dire straits, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council emphasized: Even more crushing blows by Islam's combatants shall fall on the body of the Saddam regime one after another!

In his Friday prayers sermons in Tehran today, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i also paid tribute to the valuable services rendered by the illustrious theologian Grand Ayatollah Morteza Ha'eri, as one of the prominent personalities and excellent ulema of the religious seminary and faithful friend of the imam by saying: Since the first days of the inception of the Islamic movement, this divine theologian has embarked on his struggles and thereby imparted a fresh breath to the Islamic revolution.

Ground Forces Commander Briefs President Khamene'i

LD090556 Tehran IRNA in English 0552 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 9, IRNA — Commander of the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran Colonel Sayyad Shirazi met and conferred with President and head of the Supreme Defence Council 'Ali Khamene'i, here Saturday.

Colonel Shirazi briefed the president on the victorious Val-Fajr-8 and 9 offensives and high morale of the Iranian forces. He also reported to President Khamene'i on the status of the ground forces.

Ministers Brief Cabinet on War, Energy Project

LD091123 Tehran IRNA in English 1008 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 9, IRNA — Ministers of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, and defence, Mohsen Rafiqdust and Colonel Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali, stressed here Sunday that the Islamic combatants of Iran through stabilizing and strengthening their positions have disappointed the enemy from retaking areas liberated by the Islamic combatants of Iran.

Speaking at a Cabinet ministers session, the two ministers also briefed the participants of the recent achievements of the Islamic combatants of Iran in the battlefields.

The Cabinet praised donations made by the people to the warfronts and the outstanding role of the people in the recent victorious [word indistinct] offensive.

Meanwhile, Energy Minister Mohammad Taki Banki reported on the operation of the third unit of martyr Montazeri power plant in Esfahan.

According to the report, the unit was completed by Iranian specialists in less than nine months after foreign experts abandoned the project. [Words indistinct] previous contracts, at least 42 foreign experts had to remain in Iran for a period of one year after the completion of the project.

At present Iranian experts are in the process of completing the fourth unit of the power plant [word indistinct].

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets With Envoys to UN, Asia

LD101035 Tehran IRNA in English 1002 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran March 10, IRNA — The Iranian representative to the United Nations Seyyed Rajaie-Khorasani, currently here, in a meeting with Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, here Sunday, discussed international developments in connection with the Iraqi imposed war.

They also discussed regional issues and the role the Islamic Republic of Iran played in the region.

Rajaie also reported on friendly relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the countries of the region and also cooperation of the Iranian representative to the U.N. with ambassadors of regional countires.

Meanwhile Iranian ambassadors and charge d'affaires in Asia and the Pacific, accompanied by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, met and talked with Majlis speaker here Sunday afternoon.

Addressing the visitors, the Majlis speaker said that the Islamic Republic of Iran started a serious political-military movement some six months ago, outcome of which appeared recently and better results would be achieved in future.

The Majlis speaker castigated vicious propaganda staged by enemies of the Islamic revolution of Iran after the liberation of the city of Al-Faw by the Islamic combatants of Iran.

He stressed that those who were referring to the liberation of Al-Faw port city as an aggression had never uttered a word on the occupation of the Iranian city of Naft Shahr by the Iraqi forces.

They were either prejudiced for Arab race or were supporters of the U.S., the Majlis speaker who is also the spokesman for the Supreme Defence Council said.

He said that whatever the Islamic Republic of Iran did was for the sake of the future of Iraqi Muslims, adding that the real war reparation can only be compensated with the liberation of Iraqi people.

The principle issue for Iran is liberation of the Iraqis after which, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, the Islamic Republic of Iran was ready to forgo parts of war reparations.

Romanian Foreign Minister Visits Tehran

Arrives in Tehran 9 Mar

LD090604 Tehran IRNA in English 0557 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 9, IRNA — The Romanian foreign minister, Ilie Vaduva, heading a five-man delegation arrived here Sunday morning for a three-day visit and talks with the Iranian officials.

The Romanian minister was welcomed at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by his Iranian counterpart Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and a number of other Foreign Ministry officials.

Talks of the Romanian foreign minister with Iranian officials will center on international issues and mutual ties. The Iraqi imposed war is also expected to be raised in the course of discussion.

Meets With Velayati

LD091315 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] The Central News Unit: The first round of talks between the Romanian minister of foreign affairs, who is currently on a visit to Tehran, and Foreign Minister Velayati has started. In the course of the meeting, having reviewed the various dimensions of bilateral relations, the Romanian foreign minister asked for an expansion of comprehensive ties and the holding of talks at more senior levels in order to give more depth to international understanding between the two countries.

He emphasized that the two countries share similar views on many international issues and that this fact could serve as a solid foundation for expansion of bilateral relations.

Foreign Minister Velayati also emphasized the Islamic Republic's wish to expand relations with Romania, saying: The Islamic Republic of Iran has particular interest in expanding relations with countries that are trying to stand on their own feet; this would help all countries to progress toward strengthening their own independence.

Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD091542 Tehran IRNA in English 1521 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March, 9, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani promised the visiting Romanian Foreign Minister Ilie Vaduva Sunday that he will visit the East European country as soon as he finds an opportunity. The two men had met for discussions over bilateral ties.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani told the Romanian minister that the Islamic Republic has had an interest in expanding relations with Romania since the early days of the 1979 Islamic Revolution but that there has been no time.

"Unfortunately, since the Iraqi military aggression on our soil, there has been limits on both Iran and Romania that has not allowed the expansion of relations," he said.

Vaduva expressed similar sentiments and said the Romanian nation has always had friendly feelings towards Iran and it hopes these common approaches will help the strengthening of relations.

He said many fields of cooperation exist between the two countries.

Iraqi Kurds 'Escalate' Attacks on Government Troops

LD091805 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] Urumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov., March 9, IRNA — Iraqi Kurdish Muslim fighters have escalated their attacks on Iraqi forces following Iran's Val-Fajr-9 offensive in northeastern Al-Sulaymaniyah, according to informed sources here Sunday.

The Kurdish fighters have killed and wounded 80 Iraqi troops during several operations over the past two days, the sources said.

In another attack the Kurdish combatants destroyed Iraq's Shanadari military camp killing and wounding numerous Iraqi soldiers, said the sources.

Meanwhile, 42 Iraqis who had been forcibly armed by the Iraqi regime surrendered themselves to the Kurdish warriors submitting 30 machine guns, said the sources.

Iraq Reportedly Makes 'Secret Approaches' to Israel

LD081011 Tehran IRNA in English 0823 GMT 8 Mar 86

["Iraq Ready To Recognize the Zionist Regime in Return for Arms" — IRNA headline]

[Text] London, March 8, IRNA — Iraq has made secret approaches toward the Zionist regime in the hope of obtaining weapons and military advice and is even ready to recognize the Zionist state in return for its help, said the British weekly publication *FOREIGN REPORT*.

The report said Iraq "worried about the trend in the war" contacted the Tel Aviv regime for help and appeared to be willing to accept the Zionist regime's "stiff terms".

The diplomatic sources in London interpret this as an indirect admission of Iran's success in the war by a journal known for its anti-Islamic policies.

They say that Iraq's Western and Zionist friends, fearing a total defeat are now willing to give all out support for the Ba'thists.

Giving details on Iraq's new bid for the Zionists' arms, the report said that Iraq recently sent a secret military mission to Cairo to ask Egypt to contact the Zionists and see "if they might help out in the war."

The Iraqis, according to *FOREIGN REPORT* (March 6), were apparently encountering great difficulties in obtaining more weapons and spare parts from the Soviet Union and France, their main armourers.

The last visit of an Iraqi mission to Moscow failed to obtain the arms Saddam Husayn thought necessary, it said, and "France is not interested in extending its already big loans to Iraq. it wants hard currency."

The Zionists, said the report, insisted on having direct contacts with Iraq rather than negotiating through Egypt.

Later the Iraqi deputy foreign minister, Tahir al-Qaysi [title as received] flew to New York and held talks there with the Zionist ambassador to the U.N., Benjamin Netanyahu.

Iraq promised to recognize the Zionist regime "when the war ended." However, added the report, the Zionists were not satisfied with this and wanted some concrete steps be taken by Baghdad in support of the "peace process" in the region and stop aiding "terrorists."

After proving their loyalty, the Iraqis presented a shopping list that included air-to-ground and anti-tank missiles and "drones", the tiny, unmanned aircraft fitted with television cameras which beam pictures of the warfront to a ground station. The Zionist regime has so far made no moves, foreign report added.

The Americans, on the other hand, were aware of the whole business between the two regimes, it said.

POW Claims Iraq 'Murders' Political Prisoners

LD091756 Tehran IRNA in English 1743 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov. March 9 IRNA — The Iraqi Ba'thist regime is said to have murdered some 160 political prisoners in its latest crime in 'Al-Diwaniyah' prison, south of Iraq, according to an Iraqi POW taken captive in Val Fajr [number indistinct] operational region, in Al-Faw.

The POW said that the political prisoners had been drained of their blood before they were martyred. The POW has seen corpses of some of the political prisoners in Iraq's Al-Diwaniyah Province [as received].

SAIRI Spokesman on Formation of 'Val-Fajr Army'

LD090848 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 9, IRNA — The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] will form "Val-Fajr" army made up of Iraqi revolutionaries, said the SAIRI spokesman, Mahmud Hashemi, here Saturday night.

The army will take part in liberating more Iraqi territories and will prepare the reserve and support forces Hashemi said adding that the Islamic Revolution's Guards will cooperate with SAIRI in this respect.

A seminar on ways of forming the army will be held Thursday in which various experts will participate, he added.

Hashemi called on Iraqi refugees in Iran to report to Basij centers of the SAIRI for training. Meanwhile, in a message the SAIRI

urged Iraqi Muslims and Armed Forces personnel to meet their responsibilities towards Islam and Iraq and join together to liberate their country.

The SAIRI spokesman condemned the recent stance of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) towards recent Iranian victories in the Iraqi imposed war. The same council made no objection when the Iraqi regime had occupied thousands of kilometers of the Iranian territory, he added.

However, now that the Islamic forces of Iran in order to punish the aggressor and war monger, have entered Iraq, the PGCC has voiced its opposition, Hashemi said.

He warned the council that any cooperation with the Iraqi ruler was a treachery against the Iraqi people and will not be forgotten by them. He further added that the Iraqi mujahideen and the Iraqi Muslims may react to the recent stance of the PGCC.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2402

LD071720 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA — Iranian Muslim combatants responded to Iraqi artillery fire in the northwestern fronts Thursday destroying one munitions dump, several vehicles and gun emplacements of theirs and silencing enemy artillery, according to a military communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Friday.

In its Communique Number 2402, the command says that Iranian patrols carried out 30-plus missions in certain parts of the northwestern fronts and after carrying out their missions returned to their bases safely.

The movement of Iraqi armoured units and vehicle columns in areas overlooking Khorramshahr, and engineering operations of Iraqi troops in Sayyid Kan and efforts of their motor boats in Jofeyr were all thoroughly thwarted or elsewhere minimized by Iranian Muslim forces, says the communique.

In the western fronts, reports the Joint Staff, Iran's gendarmerie forces resisted all Iraqi operations and continued their defensive operations in Ilam and Paveh border areas and elsewhere in the Arvand River they shelled Iraqi positions restricting their engineering operations and silencing their artillery.

In the southern fronts, Iranian Muslim troops manned their positions and continued shelling Iraqi positions preventing them from carrying out any combat operations, according to the military communique.

Meanwhile, the sporadic artillery fire of Iraqi forces on the city of Abadan Thursday damaged parts of the city.

New Artillery Used Near Basra

LD081213 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] According to a report from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the joint operational center of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the victorious "Val-Fajr-8" operations continue culminating in the liberation of some 900 square miles of territory in the Al-Faw region. Consolidating and strengthening conquered positions they monitored all enemy movements and crushed all desperate enemy moves inflicting further losses and casualties on his troops.

Also at 0830 this morning, thanks to long-range fire from the Islamic combatants' new artillery, the (Durayhamiyah) barracks — Saddam's command headquarters southwest of Basra, 60 km deep inside Iraqi territory — was hit and pulverized. Opening fire on on this enemy headquarters, Islam's combatants killed more defeated Iraqi army senior commanders together with other Ba'thist mercenaries. Having destroyed the enemy's motor vehicle parking lot, they set ablaze and destroyed another part of the enemy's light and heavy equipment.

Fighting Updated

LD081829 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] The Joint Staff Command of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces has announced that the Islamic combatants opened fire on enemy positions and supply routes in the northwestern operational theater and set parts of the Iraqi forces' defensive positions on fire, demolishing several tanks, vehicles, and mortars. Moreover, in sending out patrol units and carrying out reconnaisance operations, our forces took prisoner a number of enemy troops and killed some enemy personnel.

In the exchange of fire along the border areas of Bakhtaran and Ilam, more than 15 Iraqi troops were either killed or wounded following artillery and heavy arms fire by Islamic combatants. At about 0300 yesterday morning, one enemy patrol unit came under our forces' fire in the area opposite Khosravi. The unit, having suffered some casualties, then fled.

In the operational region of Anjireh, several Iraqi engineering vehicles were noticed trying to build earthworks. But, after opening fire on them, they were stopped from carrying out their task. In the operational zone of southern Majnun Island, an exchange of heavy fire continued with enemy forces. Consequently, as a result of heavy fire by the Islamic warriors, the combined fire of the enemy weapons was stopped.

In the operational zone of Yebis, our forces, having dispatched a patrol and combat unit, succeeded not only in crossing some important barbed wire obstacles as well as some minefields, but also captured a number of Iraqi troops and transferred them behind the lines. The patrolling operations of the Islamic combatants were so swift that as they returned and rejoined our own forces, the enemy tanks' maneuvers in the region commenced.

However, the enemy tanks' movements and firing were stopped by our artillery fire.

At 0645 yesterday morning, the movement and operation of an enemy patrol unit in the operational Chenaleh zone was foiled by our mighty forces' fire. In the operational areas of Nahr Anbar and Yebis, our forces opened fire on enemy tank units, causing casualties and losses to them.

Yesterday, the enemy opened artillery fire on some civic centers and houses in Abadan, causing some damage to them.

Iraqi Army Battalion 'Smashed'

LD091036 Tehran IRNA in English 1027 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] Al-Faw, March 9, IRNA — The Islamic combatants of Iran smashed a battalion of the Iraqi 19th army in the operational theater of the Val-Fajr-8, Al-Faw region, Saturday night.

The latest report from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' HQ. said that the Islamic forces of Iran in continuation of their offensive launched Feb. 9, while checking all movements of the battered Iraqi forces, wiped out an Iraqi battalion in northern Al-Faw and inflicted heavy blows on other Iraqi forces in the region, Saturday.

In this operation the Iranian forces killed or wounded hundreds of the enemy forces, the report added.

An Iranian commander commenting on Saturday night operation told IRNA that the enemy once again became disillusioned with his dream of retaking the Al-Faw region from the Iranian forces.

The enemy started out with two battalions one of which was totally smashed and the remainder suffered extensive casualties, he added. "Death is awaiting all those who wish to engage in a battle with the Islamic forces of Iran in this region," he told IRNA. He further added, "With the help of God not only we have not retreated from a single inch of the territory that we have liberated, we have decided to clarify the status of Iraqi commanders right at this region."

He strongly refuted Iraqi regime's claims that its forces have made advances in Al-Faw region. At present the Iraqi regime is faced with a political-military deadend. From the military point of view the Iraqi regime has completely lost its face and has no alternative but to make up for it in the battle fields. However, nothing but death is waiting them in the war fronts, the Iranian commander added.

Communique No 2404

LD091538 Tehran IRNA in English 1526 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 9, IRNA — At least 10 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and one enemy vehicle together with several gun emplacements were demolished in the western fronts Saturday as their positions were shelled by Iranian Muslim forces, according to a military communique here Sunday.

Communique Number 2404 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces says that Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions in the northwestern fronts killed and wounded a number of Iraqi troops and destroyed four tanks, two mortar launchers and several gun emplacements.

The command says that other Iranian forces stationed elsewhere in the northwestern fronts pounded Iraqi positions with artillery and helicopters gunship fire inflicting heavy casualties and losses on them.

In the southern fronts, the communique says, Iranian Muslim combatants continued the purge of the region and exchange of fire with enemy troops.

Checking all Iraqi aerial, combat-engineering operations throughout the fronts Iranian forces shelled Iraqi armoured units in Jofeyr as well as a vehicle column around Sumar minimizing the enemy activities, reports the command.

The Joint Staff communique says that Iranian ground-to-air fire forced Iraqi planes to flee from Sumar.

Meanwhile, the sporadic artillery fire of Iraqi forces on the city of Abadan, Khuzestan Province, Saturday inflicted minor damage on the city.

Total of 70 Planes Downed

GF100527 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] According to a report by the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, due to the effective fire of the ground-to-air defense units of the warriors of Islam and the tactical actions of the fighters of the air force of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces, three more aircraft of the Iraqi aggressors were shot down over the operational theater of "Val-Fajr-8." This brings the total number of Iraqi planes shot down in this theater to 70.

In the theater of operation of "Val-Fajr-9," having established itself in the strategic heights of the region, the army of Islam has seized a complete initiative and now controls them. Using heavy fire, they have either killed or wounded a large number of Iraqi forces and have set more of their armored equipment on fire. The warriors of Islam currently have control over 350 square kilometers of strategic areas northeast of Al-Sulaymaniyah that has been liberated during the course of "Val-Fajr-9" operations. The city of Chuwartah is in sight of the forces of Islam, while they are also established 18 km from Al-Sulaymaniyah. The television transmitter antenna of Chuwartah can be seen by the naked eye.